

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims reflects all claim amendments and replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Material to be inserted is in **bold and underline**, and material to be deleted is in ~~strikeout~~ or (if the deletion is of five or fewer consecutive characters or would be difficult to see) in double brackets [[]].

In brief, claims 12 and 13 have been canceled, without prejudice; claims 1, 2, 9, and 14–20 have been amended; and new claims 21–25 have been added.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:
securing a bone plate to at least one bone, or portion thereof, ~~[[so]]~~ **such** that the bone plate **is disposed under skin** ~~has a relative disposition to bone; and~~
~~selecting an adjustment to the relative disposition; and~~
applying the adjustment **adjusting a relative disposition of plate members of the bone plate** by **relative** movement of the bone plate **plate members via an adjustable joint that connects the plate members** and observation of reference marks **that are distinct from the adjustable joint**, the reference marks being disposed on the bone plate and being configured to indicate a plurality of predefined adjustments.

2. (Currently Amended) A bone plate for bone fixation, comprising:
first and second plate members **each having an outer face and structured to be attached to** configured for attachment to different portions of at least one bone **such that the plate members are disposed under skin and such that the outer face opposes the at least one bone, the first and second plate members being** ~~[[and]]~~

connected by a joint so that a relative disposition of the first and second plate members is adjustable; and

a plurality of reference marks disposed on **the outer face of** at least one of the first and second plate members and configured to **visibly** indicate the relative disposition **when the outer face is viewed**.

3. (Original) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein the joint is configured to allow pivotal movement of the first and second plate members relative to one another.

4. (Original) The bone plate of claim 3, wherein the reference marks include numbers configured to describe an angular disposition.

5. (Original) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein the joint is configured to allow sliding movement of the first and second plate members relative to one another.

6. (Original) The bone plate of claim 5, wherein the reference marks include numbers configured to describe a translational disposition.

7. (Original) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein the bone plate is configured for use on a distal portion of a radius bone.

8. (Original) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein at least a subset of the reference marks are disposed in an arcuate array adjacent the joint.

9. (Currently Amended) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein the reference marks include ~~at least one of~~ line segments, ~~[[and]]~~ dots, **or both, and wherein** the ~~at least one of~~ line segments, ~~[[and]]~~ dots, **or both are** ~~[[being]]~~ spaced regularly.

10. (Original) The bone plate of claim 2, wherein the reference marks include a landmark on the first plate member and a set of regularly spaced marks on the second

plate member, and wherein the set of regularly spaced marks are configured to be compared to the landmark to measure the relative disposition.

11. (Original) The bone plate of claim 10, wherein at least one of the regularly spaced marks corresponding to a standard setting is further denoted relative to the remaining regularly spaced marks by alternative and/or additional indicia.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of bone fixation, comprising:
securing plate members of a bone plate to different portions of a radius at least one bone[[,]] such that the bone plate is disposed under skin the different portions having a relative disposition; and

~~selecting an adjustment to the relative disposition; and~~

~~applying the adjustment~~ adjusting a relative disposition of the plate members
by relative movement of the plate members and observation of reference marks, the reference marks being disposed on at least one of the plate members and being configured to indicate a plurality of predefined adjustments.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of selecting an adjustment to the relative disposition, wherein the adjustment is applied during the step of adjusting, and wherein the step of securing is performed before the step of selecting.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of cutting the at least one radius bone before the step of securing to form a cut region

~~flanked by fragments of a radius bone, wherein the step of securing includes securing the plate members to opposing sides of the cut region.~~

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the step of cutting excises a segment of the at least one radius bone.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15 [[14]], wherein the step of selecting an adjustment includes a step of measuring an angular disposition of one or more of the fragments of the radius bone different portions.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, the predefined adjustments corresponding to a set of predefined numerical values, ~~wherein the step of selecting includes~~ further comprising a step of selecting a numerical value before the step of adjusting for the adjustment, and wherein the step of adjusting applying includes a step of moving the plate members until the reference marks indicate that the numerical value has been reached.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14, further comprising a step of presetting the adjustment to the relative disposition by relative movement of the plate members [[,]] prior to the steps of securing plate members and adjusting a relative disposition ~~or applying the adjustment.~~

21. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting is performed with the bone plate secured to the at least one bone.

22. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting includes a step of manipulating a handle portion that is connected removably to a plate member.

23. (New) The method of claim 22, wherein the step of manipulating is performed with the handle portion grasped by hand.

24. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein the step of adjusting is performed with the plate members secured to the radius bone.

25. (New) A bone plate for bone fixation, comprising:

first and second plate members structured to be attached to at least one bone and disposed under skin, the plate members being connected by a joint that permits relative pivotal movement of the plate members about a pivot axis such that a relative angular disposition of the first and second plate members is adjustable; and

a plurality of reference marks disposed on at least one of the plate members and configured to indicate the relative angular disposition visibly when the bone plate is viewed along the pivot axis.